The Cleveland County Public Health Board met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Sara Karner, Marty Hamrick, Kale Meade, Christina Alexander, Henry Gilmore, Heather Bridges Moore, Deanna Moseley Lawrence (remote)

Health Department staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Andrea Power, Nathan McNeilly, Alisa Leonard, Anne Short

Visitor Present: Jordan Frye (remote)

County Attorney present: Martha Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair, Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

Nathan McNeilly gave the invocation.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:**

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING:**

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the February 14, 2023, Public Health Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

**Motion: A motion was made by Marty Hamrick with a second by Heather Bridges Moore to adopt the agenda for the February 14, 2023, Public Health Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2023, PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Chair Karner presented the January 10, 2023, Public Health Board meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

**Motion: Marty Hamrick moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2023, Public Health Board Meeting be approved, and Kale Meade made the second. The motion carried unanimously.**

**HEALTHY TOGETHER CLEVELAND:**

Chair Karner introduced Jordan Frye with Healthy Together Cleveland. Healthy Together is a community collaborative coalition that partners with Atrium Health, CCHD, Non-Profits, Faith Community, Healthcare Foundation of Cleveland County, Education & Child Care, City of Shelby, and Partnership for Change with a common goal around equality, equity, and justice for all Cleveland County residents. A data walk was held with community partners to provide data on the health of our County, review resources, and encourage active engagement around identified problems. The five areas of concern that were presented and reviewed at the data walk were nutrition/obesity, physical activity, cardiac disease, diabetes, and cancer. The two specific focus areas that were identified to focus our efforts on were nutrition and physical activity. Four areas were identified as areas that have low access to healthy food options, which were Northern Cleveland County, Boiling Spring, Shelby, and Kings Mountain. Community Conversations were had with citizens in those areas, and they were asked what they believed food insecurity is and how it can be improved. 15,350 people (which equates to the population of Boiling Springs and Kings Mountain combined) have low access to healthy food, and 20% of those people make too much money to receive food assistance benefits. The barriers for most people were income, transportation, and not enough healthy food options available. 37% of Cleveland County residents self-reported as being obese and 20% of children were reported as being obese. Residents also felt that if they had an accountability partner, they would exercise more. After these discussions with residents, they were asked if they would like to be involved in the next steps to build out action plans along with community partners to help with the needs and concerns for Cleveland County residents, to which 110 people said they would like to be involved. Anyone is invited to be a part of this coalition. The first full coalition meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, at 2:30 at the Legrand Center.

**OPTOMETRIST MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

Chair Karner introduced Tiffany Hansen with the Optometrist Member Discussion. Tiffany explained that we have reached out to Dr. Vollmer, and he has presented his letter of resignation due to conflicts in his schedule. We have received interest from Dr. Alexander with Morganton Eye Clinic. Tiffany asked if the Board had any suggestions for possible optometrists that may be interested. Sara Karner suggested Dr. Bridges as a possible board member. We will reach out to Dr. Bridges and Dr. Alexander.

**ANNUAL CHILD FATALITY REPORT:**

Chair Karner introduced DeShay Oliver with the Annual Child Fatality Report. Here in Cleveland County, we have a child fatality team that comes together to review child deaths within the County. This team helps determine if any preventative measures could have been taken to prevent the deaths and advocate for any changes they see as beneficial. For 2022, there were a total of 20 child deaths in Cleveland County. One death was a suicide, one was a heat stroke (baby left in a hot car), two motor vehicle accidents, two gunshot wounds, five unsafe sleep conditions, two medical conditions and seven related to neonatal problems at birth. Four deaths were identified as system problems with recommendations for future prevention efforts. Recommendations from the team included continued education on safe sleep practices and recommended consideration for a billboard on safe sleep practices; gun shot wounds had recommendations on continued support and training for gun violence, gang violence and human trafficking; recommendations for injuries and trauma due to motor vehicle accidents and heat stroke due to a hot car were to continue to implement and support education; suicide had a recommendation for additional suicide prevention training for community members and partners. Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training has been implemented at CCHD for all staff in helping to identify those at risk of suicide and connecting them to needed resources. Henry Gilmore asked if the gun shot wounds were accidental. Tiffany answered that the gun shot wounds were suspected to be gang related. Sara asked if training is being done in schools around suicide training. Mr. Gilmore answered that training is being done in schools now but is voluntary at this time.

**2022 STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT (SOTCH) AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANS (CHIP):**

Chair Karner introduced Anne Short with the 2022 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs). This is part of the cycle that we must go through every four years. We start with a community health assessment and from that we identified tobacco use and teen birth issues as the two health priorities that we would need to address over the span of our cycle. The community health improvement plans are written using results-based accountability, which looks at both population and performance measures. Teen births and tobacco use is broken down between strategies and accomplishments. CCHD does provide a comprehensive reproductive health and safety education class in several Cleveland County Schools that is delivered by health educators in single gender classrooms. This has worked to reduce both the teen pregnancy rate and the teen birth rate in Cleveland County. Rates for the county have been reduced from 63.8/1000 in 2009 to 30.6/1000 in 2020. The work that has taken place for the past two years for tobacco use includes tobacco messages that have been included in print and social media posts about Covid 19 to educate the public on the links between tobacco use and Covid 19. In addition, messaging directly targeting youth, especially about vaping issues, provide opportunities to educate adult parents and guardians about the impact of tobacco products use on the health status of individuals. The Too Good for Drugs program is currently being taught to 7th grade students at Shelby Middle, Crest Middle, and Burns Middle Schools. This 10-session program teaches positive communication and refusal skills as well as educates students on the signs and symptoms of addiction to substances. Mr. Gilmore asked if CCHD does surveys in schools, and Anne answered that we do surveys for those students that are enrolled in reproductive health classes. Students completed the PRIDE student drug use survey in 2021 that we do with 6th, 9th, and 12th graders. The State of the County Health Report is done in the years that we do not complete a Community Health Assessment. The purpose of the SOTCH is to provide state data and local data over time to see if we are moving in a positive direction or if improvement is needed. We are required to report on morbidity and mortality changes in our County. Diseases of the heart is the leading cause of death in Cleveland County with Cancer being 2nd and Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases being 3rd. Access to Primary Care and access to dental care are concerns for our County in improving overall health. With the addition of Primary Care at CCHD, a mobile screening unit, and a pediatric dental mobile unit we hope that we will see an improvement in the overall health of Cleveland County citizens. Anne shared that the increased pandemic level benefits for SNAP/EBT will return to the previous lower rate effective March 1. This will put some people in a food emergency. We do have clients that come into CCHD that have food emergencies. CCHD’s equity team has created “A Bag in Time” which is a bag of food that can be purchased for $25, and this will provide food for those in need for a couple of days. A specific list is provided for those that would like to purchase items for the bag, or a $25 donation can be made and CCHD staff will do the shopping for those items. Our goal is to create 50 bags for those that need assistance with food. This project will run through April 3 and items can be dropped off at CCHD. For more information, please contact Anne Short at 980-484-5112 or Zakoya Spikes at 980-484-5205.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business to discuss.

No Miscellaneous Business was discussed.

**ADJOURN: 7:06 PM**

There being no further business, Chair Karner called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: Henry Gilmore moved, with a second by Marty Hamrick that the Cleveland County Public Health Board meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary

Cleveland County Public Health Board